| | *State* | *Estimated Reserves (Figures in Million Cubic MTS)* | *Remarks* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Assam | 43.5 | |
| 3. | Bihar | 19.0 | |
| 4. | Karnataka | 55.7 | |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 0.08 | |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | 15.9 | This represents estimation of reserves of black granites. There is no estimation of reserves of coloured granite yet. |
| 7. | West Bengal | 7.0 | |
| 8. | Orissa | — | Estimation of reserves not yet taken up. |

(c) and (d). Indian granite has good export potential and granite mining in India is undertaken mostly with a view to export processed granite.

The Central Government have undertaken a series of measures to encourage growth of granite industry in the country. These include waiver of excise duties on indigenous equipments purchased by 100% Exports Oriented granite processing units, concession from payment of tax under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, and provision of export finance at concessional rates to achieve higher exports.

Since granite is a minor mineral, grant of mining leases for granite and development of granite mines are governed by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules of the respective State Governments. The State Governments on their part have taken steps to encourage setting up granite processing industries through grant of captive mining leases.

**Mobile Telephones**

2074. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce the mobile telephone system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, to start with this facility is planned to be introduced in the four metro cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

(b) An open tender in this regard has already been floated to grant franchise to Indian companies.